# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:976
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Telecom Services in NER
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Rai Shri Prem Das

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

(a) the total teledensity and the trend of mobile phone penetration in the country, State-wise including Sikkim;

(b) whether all districts of North Eastern Region (NER) including Tripura and Sikkim have been covered with telecommunication network;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the timeframe to cover the same;

(d) the steps taken to improve mobile communication penetration in North Eastern Region including Tripura and Sikkim; and

(e) whether the new security features will impact the cost of manufacturing of phones and therefore, mobile penetration in India and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) The service area wise total teledensity as on 30.11.2016 and the number of mobile telephone connections in the country during the last three years and the current year are given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c) All District Head Quarters (DHQ) of North Eastern Region (NER) including Tripura and Sikkim are covered with telecommunication network. The details are given as under:
<pre>
Physical Status Assam Meghalaya Mizoram Tripura Arunachal Pradesh Manipur Nagaland Sikkim
DHQ Total DHQ 33 11 8 8 16 9 11 4
DHQ Covered with GSM service 33 11 8 8 16 9 11 4
</pre>
Source: BSNL

(d) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER): On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a 'Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region'. The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crores. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The project is targeted to be completed by September 2018. The details are given as under:

<pre>
Sl.
No States Mobile Coverage of Uncovered villages in NER Mobile Coverage along National Highway in NER Transmission Media Plan in NER Consolidated
No. of uncovered villages No. of Tower Planned to be installed Total Cost (Rs. In Crore) No. of Towers planned to be installed Total Cost (Rs. in Crore) Total length of OFC to be laid (kms) Total cost (Rs. in Crore) (OFC & Eqpt) Total Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1 Arunachal Pradesh 2805 1893 1298.82 149 126.64 1587 136.44 1561.90
2 Assam 2503 1874 1489.57 33 27.53 228 25.09 1542.19
3 Manipur 528 384 291.52 53 44.21 172 16.31 352.04
4 Meghalaya 2374 2162 1368.44 11 9.18 124 12.77 1390.39
5 Mizoram 252 227 201.37 19 15.85 747 65.26 282.48
6 Nagaland 134 112 99.47 48 40.04 154 17.57 157.08
7 Tripura 2 2 2.54 7 5.84 76 10.98 19.36
8 Sikkim 23 19 18.36 1 0.83 126 11.55 30.74
Total 8621 6673 4770.08 321 270.13 3213 295.97 5336.18
</pre>

(e) The new security features may not necessarily lead to increase in mobile handset costs. Mobile penetration also depends on several other factors like Government policies, Tariff, Quality of Service provided by operators etc. Therefore, the impact of security

features on mobile penetration cannot be assessed in isolation.

ANNEXURE

Service area wise total teledensity and the number of mobile telephone connections during the last three years and the current year as on 30.11.2016 in the country:

<pre>

| Sr.No. | Service Area | Total mobile telephone connections (in million) | | | Total Teledensity (in %) as on 30.11.2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | As on 31.03.2014 | As on 31.03.2015 | As on 31.03.2016 | As on 30.11.2016 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 67.15 | 71.95 | 74.65 | 79.18 | 90.94 |
| 2 | Assam | 15.28 | 17.15 | 18.56 | 20.54 | 63.25 |
| 3 | Bihar | 61.59 | 69.31 | 74.51 | 80.38 | 58.17 |
| 4 | Gujarat | 54.54 | 58.56 | 62.27 | 66.16 | 105.26 |
| 5 | Haryana | 21.25 | 22.01 | 23.26 | 23.33 | 85.29 |
| 6 | Himachal Pradesh | 7.12 | 7.86 | 8.89 | 9.65 | 137.34 |
| 7 | Jammu & Kashmir | 7.94 | 9.31 | 9.82 | 10.92 | 88.37 |
| 8 | Karnataka | 54.32 | 58.05 | 61.34 | 65.71 | 108.21 |
| 9 | Kerala | 31.12 | 31.35 | 34.31 | 37.24 | 109.65 |
| 10 | Madhya Pradesh | 55.48 | 60.60 | 65.67 | 65.40 | 63.39 |
| 11 | Maharashtra | 72.59 | 76.94 | 84.10 | 88.75 | 91.03 |
| 12 | North East | 9.41 | 10.50 | 11.07 | 12.19 | 87.60 |
| 13 | Odisha | 25.13 | 27.87 | 29.06 | 32.14 | 75.91 |
| 14 | Punjab | 31.21 | 30.63 | 31.75 | 35.21 | 116.33 |
| 15 | Rajasthan | 52.65 | 55.21 | 60.09 | 63.74 | 87.54 |
| 16 | Tamil Nadu | 75.17 | 80.32 | 81.35 | 83.87 | 121.08 |
| 17 | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 76.98 | 83.40 | 92.24 | 99.97 | 70.17 |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 48.76 | 52.02 | 57.60 | 61.45 | |
| 19 | West Bengal * | 42.29 | 47.07 | 49.50 | 54.15 | 68.64 |
| 20 | Kolkata | 21.07 | 22.56 | 25.03 | 27.17 | 175.62 |
| 21 | Delhi | 42.58 | 46.19 | 47.24 | 49.11 | 240.60 |
| 22 | Mumbai | 30.89 | 30.67 | 31.80 | 33.70 | 155.61 |
| Total | | 904.52 | 969.54 | 1034.11 | 1099.97 | 87.85 |

</pre>

Source: DoT compiled data

*The state of Sikkim is included in the West Bengal service area.

**********